DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Targe Energy Gathering System LUL 8575 **Proposed Implementation Date:** February 2008

Proponent: Targe Energy & Production, LLC. 410 17th St., Suite # 1200 - Denver, Co. 80202 ph. (303) 893-6638

Type and Purpose of Action: To connect a series of gas wells into a 4-inch poly flow line that will tie to a secondary 4 inch MCR production line. The purpose of this action is to gain a better well head gas price by shipping to a different buyer and market.

Location: T35N – R1E – Sec 24 W1/2NW1/4 (Common School Grant) **County:** Toole

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	DNRC, MMB: Subsurface/Surface owner Targe Energy & Production, LLC: Operator Robert Parsell: Surface Lessee
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Deny the request

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N]	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
		N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?		[N] This proposal will take place on northern glaciated plains. The general topography is relatively flat. The soil profile is moderately deep and consists of predominately silt to clay textured soils. The vegetation is dominated by Western Wheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, and Prairie June grass. Reclamation will consist of backfilling and re - shaping all excavations, and re-seeding all disturbances related to the project. Seeding requirements will be 7 lbs/acre of green needlgrass, 7 lbs/acre Western Wheatgrass, and 2-lbs/acre sweet clover.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water		[N] Water quality will not be encountered as a result of this proposal.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	
6.	AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There will be no impact to the air shed as a result of this proposal.
7.	VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] A 2640' linear strip of vegetation will be impacted as a result of this proposal. A four -inch pipeline will require an excavation 4 foot wide by 5 foot deep. The plant community that will be impacted will be replaced with the seed mix recommended in column 4 above.
8.	TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There will not be any adverse impact to fish, wildlife, or birds resulting from this proposal.
9.	UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no endangered or threatened species or habitat present on this site.
10.	HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] During the field inspection there were no historic sites found. The lease records also indicated no cultural sites present located along the proposed route.
11.	AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no prominent topographic features in the proposed area.
12.	DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, and AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are basically only two major industries within this proposed area. They are agricultural and petroleum industries and both work quite well together.
13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[N] None

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

	RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14.	HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] This project will not add to the health and safety of the area.
15.	INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The results of this project will contribute to the industrial gas production of the area. This particular area is dependent

	upon both the petroleum and agricultural industries.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This project will require a contractor to complete the project. The estimated number of jobs is six to eight. Cumulative impacts are not expected as a result of this action.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This project will create tax revenue from the sale of natural gas production and associated license and permitting fees.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] There will be a temporary influx of traffic during the trenching phase of the project. This traffic will deflate after the work has been completed.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None
20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] There are no wilderness or recreational sites accessed through this tract.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] None
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] None
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] None
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] This project can benefit the State of Montana in terms of gas royalties produced from well production, and license / R/W fees. Estimated returns will be $10.00 a rod from line installation. This project will cover 160 rods.

EA Checklist Prepared By: Steve Dobson (Name) LUS – Conrad Unit (Title) Date: 1-29-08

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Approve the gas pipeline project under LUL #8575.
26. SIGN4IFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Short-term and small-scale impacts to the native rangeland is expected along the pipeline route. The route is adjacent to and parallel to a county road. All disturbed areas will be recontoured and reseeded to native grass according to the specifications outlined within this EA. No known archaeological sites are located within the project area. The surface lessee has been contacted and actual damages have been settled. The School Trust will receive $10.00 per rod on 160 rods or $1,600.00 for a 10 year LUL . Overall, no negative environmental impacts are expected.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Erik Eneboe (Name) Conrad Unit Manager - CLO (Title)

February 1, 2008

Signature Date